

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, with claim 4 withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for restriction. By this response to the non-final Response mailed on March 4, 2010, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendments is found in, for example, paragraphs [0018] and [0027] of the specification, and FIG. 5. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully solicited

Status of Claim 4 / Request for Rejoinder

With reference to Applicants' remarks on page 6 of the response filed on October 23, 2009, Applicants note that claim 4 is currently withdrawn, and eligible for rejoinder upon allowance of one of generic claims 1, 2, and 5-7. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claim 4 upon allowance of any of claims 1, 2, and 5-7 previously identified as generic by the Examiner.

Status of Claims 9 and 10

It is respectfully noted that on pages 5 and 6 of the response filed on October 23, 2009 requested cancellation of claims 9 and 10, without prejudice. However, pages 1 and 8-10 of the Office Action continue to treat claims 9 and 10 as pending. Applicants respectfully request cancellation of claims 9 and 10, as indicated in the attached listing of the claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,912,842 (Chang) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,534 (Adan) and U.S. Patent No. 5,767,549 (Chen). On page 7 of the Office Action, claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang, Adan, and Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,794,717 (Matsumoto). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As shown in Adan, FIG. 1, source 5 is connected to ground. Thus, the source in Adan is different from the “source line to which a power supply potential is supplied,” as recited in independent claim 1. Additionally, neither Chen nor Adan discloses or renders obvious connecting one of the main electrodes of an access transistor, on the side not connected to a storage transistor, to the power supply potential. Thus, the cited art does not render obvious the “bit line to be selected based on an address signal and to supply a writing voltage to the memory cell to be written” recited in independent claim 1. These gaps are not bridged by the other cited references.

Also, page 4 of the Office Action incorrectly concluded that “Chen teaches a charge accumulation node formed below channel formation region (abstract)” and that “[i]t would have been obvious . . . to employ a charge accumulation below the channel, as shown by Chen, in order to remove the problem of a floating gate (abstract).” The Abstract of Chen describes a “problem . . . due to charge accumulation below the channel of MOS FET's.” *See also* col. 1, lines 35-36 (“the floating body effects remain one of the main obstacles”); col. 6, lines 20-23. Seeking to eliminate this problem, Chen discloses “a structure for removing floating body effects of field effect transistors (FET's)” (col. 1, lines 11-13) which “effectively suppresses the unwanted floating-body SOI FET effects in SOI MOSFET's” (col. 7, lines 47-49). Thus, Chen

does not disclose, and instead appears to teach away from, the “charge accumulation node formed below said first channel formation region” recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 3-7 which depend thereon.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner’s favorable reconsideration as to allowance, and withdrawal of any rejections of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants’ representative listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Eric M. Shelton
Registration No. 57,630

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 EMS:MWE
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: August 4, 2010

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